CHAPTER 2.3.3.

(You may comment on all text in this section)

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

Article 2.3.3.1.

The recommendations in this Chapter are intended to manage the human and animal health risks associated with bovine tuberculosis, a zoonosis caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis*, which may infect some domestic and free-living animal species.

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to trade in cattle and products originating from cattle.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Terrestrial Manual.*

Article 2.3.3.2.

Criteria for determining animal health status

The animal health status of a country or zone/compartment, with respect to bovine tuberculosis, can be determined on the basis of the following criteria, which may be applied within a country or zone/compartment, either to all susceptible species, or to a single species or group of species*:

1) availability of adequate knowledge of all potential factors for occurrence of bovine tuberculosis, in particular:

    a) the numbers and distribution of all susceptible domestic and free-living species including the numbers of herds or other groupings as appropriate;

    b) the distribution of domestic and free-living species found to be infected with *M. bovis*;

    c) evidence to establish whether the species found to be infected is a maintenance host or a spill-over host;

    d) the epidemiological relationship between species in maintaining a reservoir of infection in the country or zone/compartment;

    e) the extent to which animal species can be treated as separate compartments;

    f) the risk of introduction or re-introduction of infection through the importation of animals, semen or any other means;

2) the presence of a disease management, control or eradication programme based on the guidelines in Appendix 3.X.X.X.;

3) continuing monitoring and surveillance based on the guidelines in Appendix 3.X.X.X., including compulsory notification and investigation of all suspected cases of *M. bovis* infection.

Article 2.3.3.3.

Country or zone/compartment free from bovine tuberculosis

A country or zone/compartment may be considered to be free from bovine tuberculosis when it is unable to detect *M. bovis* infection according to a specified surveillance and monitoring programme.

A country or zone/compartment may be considered to be free from bovine tuberculosis when:

1) the criteria outlined in Article 2.3.3.2. are met; and

2) for a period of 6 years, no herd of a species recognised as a maintenance host has been found to be infected with *M. bovis* according to a surveillance and monitoring programme that is capable of detecting an annual period prevalence of more than one infected herd per 1,000 (0.1%) with 95% confidence (see Appendix 3.X.X.X.); and

3) appropriate surveys of spill-over host species and susceptible free-living species conducted over 6 years have not found infection; and

4) measures are in place to prevent the transfer of infection from countries or zones/compartments where *M. bovis* occurs; and

5) no vaccination of animal species has been undertaken for at least 6 years (this requirement excludes animals confined to a zoological park); and

6) any re-emergence or re-introduction of *M. bovis* is:

   a) contained within and, within 12 months, eliminated from the herd or herds in which the infected animal(s) was found;

   b) all in-contact animals have been traced and tested negative or eliminated, and

   c) the source of the infection has been identified and appropriate actions are taken to prevent its recurrence;

7) failure to meet the conditions in point 6) above means the status shall revert to provisionally free.

Article 2.3.3.4.

Herd free from bovine tuberculosis

To qualify as free from bovine tuberculosis, a herd of cattle shall satisfy the following requirements:

1) the herd is in a country or zone/compartment free from bovine tuberculosis; or

2) all cattle in the herd:

   a) show no clinical sign of bovine tuberculosis;

   b) over 6 weeks of age, have shown a negative result to at least two tuberculin tests carried out at an interval of 6 months, the first test being performed at 6 months following the slaughter of the last affected animal;

   c) showed a negative result to an annual tuberculin test to ensure the continuing absence of bovine tuberculosis;

3) cattle introduced into the herd:

   a) must be accompanied by a certificate from an *Official Veterinarian* attesting that they were subjected to a tuberculin test during the 30 days prior to entry into the herd, with negative

result; or

b) were kept in a herd free from bovine tuberculosis.

Article 2.3.3.5.

Country or zone/compartment provisionally free from bovine tuberculosis

Provisional freedom from bovine tuberculosis is a status in which it is recognised that tuberculosis is still likely to be present at a prevalence of not greater than five infected herds per 1,000 (0.5%).

A country or geographical compartment may be considered to be provisionally free from bovine tuberculosis where:

1) the criteria outlined in Article 2.3.3.2. are met; and

2) for a period of 3 years, annual period prevalence amongst herds of maintenance host species has not exceeded five infected herds per 1,000 (0.5%), under a surveillance and monitoring programme capable of defining this with 95% confidence (see Appendix 3.X.X.X.); and

3) appropriate surveys of spill-over host species and susceptible free-living species conducted over 3 years have not found infection; and

4) measures are in place to prevent the transfer of infection from countries or zones/compartments where *M. bovis* occurs; and

5) no vaccination of animal species has been undertaken for at least 3 years (this requirement excludes animals confined to a zoological park); and

6) provisional freedom is lost if annual period herd prevalence exceeds 0.5%.

Article 2.3.3.6.

Conditions providing negligible animal health risk in international trade

For live animals

Live animals are considered to constitute a negligible animal health risk of transmission of bovine tuberculosis when:

1) the criteria for country or zone/compartment freedom as specified in Article 2.3.3.3. have been met; and

2) the animals showed no clinical sign of bovine tuberculosis on the day of shipment; and

3) the animals come from a herd or herds not subject to movement restrictions or any other official control for bovine tuberculosis;

OR

4) the criteria for country or zone/compartment for provisional freedom as specified in Article 2.3.3.5. have been met; and

5) the animals are free from clinical sign of tuberculosis on the day of shipment; and

6) the animals come from a herd/herds free from bovine tuberculosis; and

7) within 30 days prior to shipment, the animals were subjected to a test for bovine tuberculosis with negative results;

OR

8) a disease management, control or eradication programme based on the guidelines in Appendix 3.X.X.X. (under study) has been in place in the *exporting country* for at least 3 years; and

9) the animals:

   a) are free from clinical sign of tuberculosis on the day of shipment;

   b) come from a herd/herds free from bovine tuberculosis; and

   c) were subjected to a test for bovine tuberculosis with negative results on two occasions, with the second test conducted within 30 days prior to shipment.

Article 2.3.3.7.

Conditions providing negligible animal health risk in international trade

For bovine semen and embryos

Semen and embryos are considered to constitute a negligible animal health risk of transmission of bovine tuberculosis where:

1) each donor is resident in a country, geographical compartment or animal species compartment free from bovine tuberculosis as specified above;

OR

2) the donor is resident in a country, geographical compartment or animal species compartment provisionally free from bovine tuberculosis as specified above; and

3) the donor was subjected to a test for bovine tuberculosis with negative results during the 30 days prior to entering an *establishment* or *artificial insemination centre* where all animals are free from bovine tuberculosis;

OR

4) a disease management, control or eradication programme based on the guidelines in Appendix 3.X.X.X. is in place in the *exporting country*; and

5) each donor:

   a) did not come from herds that have been subject to movement restrictions or any other official control within the previous 12 months; and

   b) was subjected to a test for bovine tuberculosis with negative results on two occasions, with an interval between each test appropriate to the test used, prior to entering an *establishment* or *artificial insemination centre* where all animals are free from bovine tuberculosis.

Article 2.3.3.8.

Conditions providing negligible public health risk in international trade

For animals intended for slaughter

Animals are considered to constitute a negligible public health risk of transmission of bovine tuberculosis when:

1) the *exporting country* has in place a tuberculosis control and/or surveillance programme based on the guidelines presented in Appendix [3.X.X.X.]; and

2) none of the animals is being killed as part of that programme; and

3) the animals are free from clinical sign of tuberculosis on the day of transport.

Article 2.3.3.9.

Conditions providing negligible public health risk in international trade

For meat and meat products

Meat and meat products are considered to constitute a negligible public health risk of transmission of bovine tuberculosis when:

1) the *exporting country* has in place a tuberculosis control and/or surveillance programme based on the guidelines presented in Appendix [3.X.X.X.]; and

2) the animals are free from clinical sign of tuberculosis on the day of slaughter; and

3) the consignment of meat comes from animals which have been subjected to risk-based ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection as described in the Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice for Meat Hygiene.

Article 2.3.3.10.

Conditions providing negligible public health risk in international trade

For milk and milk products

Milk and milk products are considered to constitute a negligible public health risk of transmission of bovine tuberculosis when the *exporting country* has in place a tuberculosis control and/or surveillance programme based on the guidelines presented in Appendix [3.X.X.X.]; and

either

1) the consignment has been derived from animals in a country, zone/compartment or animal species compartment free from bovine tuberculosis as described in Article 2.3.3.3.;

or

2) the consignment was subjected to pasteurisation or an equivalent process as described in the Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products.

Article 2.3.3.11.

Veterinary Administrations of *importing countries* should require for the purposes of animal health:

for animals for breeding or rearing

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that all the animals in the consignment meet the measures specified in Article 2.3.3.6. for live animals.

Article 2.3.3.12.

Veterinary Administrations of *importing countries* should require for purposes of animal health:

for animals destined for zoological gardens

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1) have not been in contact with any animal known to have been infected with *M. bovis*, and

2) during the 30 days prior to shipment, were subjected to a test for bovine tuberculosis, with negative results.

Article 2.3.3.13.

Veterinary Administrations of *importing countries* should require for purposes of animal health:

for semen and embryos

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the consignment meets the measures specified in Article 2.3.3.7. for semen or embryos, and were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of the relevant Appendices.

Article 2.3.3.14.

Veterinary Administrations should require for purposes of animal health:

for meat and meat products

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the consignment meets the measures specified in Article 2.3.3.9. for meat and meat products.

Article 2.3.3.15.

Veterinary Administrations should require for purposes of animal health:

for milk and milk products

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the consignment meets the measures specified in Article 2.3.3.10. for milk and milk products.

Article 2.3.3.16.

Veterinary Administrations or other competent authorities of *importing countries* having jurisdiction should require for purposes of public health:

for animals for slaughter

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that all the animals in the consignment meet the measures specified in Article 2.3.3.8. for animals intended for slaughter.

Article 2.3.3.17.

Veterinary Administrations or other competent authorities of *importing countries* having jurisdiction should require for purposes of public health:

for meat and meat products

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the consignment meets the measures specified in Article 2.3.3.9. for meat and meat products.

Article 2.3.3.18.

Veterinary Administrations or other competent authorities of *importing countries* having jurisdiction should require for purposes of public health:

for milk and milk products

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that that the consignment meets the measures specified in Article 2.3.3.10. for milk and milk products.

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* Domestic and free-living animal species are classified according to the role that they play in the epidemiology of bovine tuberculosis. Maintenance host species are species that can sustain endemic infection of *M. bovis* in the long term through transmission of infection among members of the species without reinforcement through transmission of infection from another species. 'Spill-over' host species are species that acquire infection by exposure to infected animals but do not sustain the infection in the long term by transmission among members of the same species except that transmission among members of a spill-over species may occur at high population densities.

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